

Special Meeting
August 28, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 5:00pm in the Panel Room of the 1767 Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Bill Gardner, Harry Lee Winslow.

Absent: Wayne Goodwin, due to hospitalization

Vice Chairman Ralph Cole called the meeting to order and Commissioner Alligood presented the invocation.

Vice Chairman Cole recessed the special meeting and opened a public hearing to receive comment on the proposal to increase the occupancy tax rate for accommodations in Chowan County.

County Attorney Peter Rascoe stated that Chowan County was authorized by the General Assembly in 1989 to collect an occupancy tax of three percent, for all rentals in Chowan County of less than ninety days. He stated that in the legislation passed by the General Assembly this year, Chowan County is authorized to increase the occupancy tax levy by two percent – to five percent. The legislation provides that the structure of the Tourism Development Authority will be comprised of at least one-third of the members being individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the County, and at least one-half of the members must be individuals who are active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the County. The Board was requested to add one additional member to represent accommodations/collections to make the representation meet the requirements of the legislation. The Board of Commissioners shall designate one member of the Authority as Chair. The Authority shall adopt rules of procedure to govern its meetings. The County shall serve as fiscal agent of the Authority and the County Finance Officer shall be the ex officio finance officer of the Authority. The Authority shall continue to promote travel, tourism and conventions in the County, sponsor tourism-related events and activities in the County, and finance tourism-related capital projects in the County.

Nancy Nicholls, Tourism Authority Director, presented a report of accomplishments of the TDA including: hosting many travel writers, hosting fishing, sailing, canoeing and kayaking events, serving on various boards to promote travel and tourism, development of the Civil War Trails and Underground Railroad Signs, and participation in numerous local, regional and state-wide travel and tourism events and efforts to attract travelers.

Additional collections would be budgeted toward more internet promotions and for website updates to make the website more travel-friendly.

Commissioner Alligood commented that tourism has become a major industry in Chowan County and that this additional revenue will be helpful to competing with other locations in the travel market.

Mrs. Nicholls stated that an increase of \$48,000 is projected by the increase of 2%, to 5% occupancy tax levy. The average occupancy tax rate in the area is 6%.

No comment was offered from the public.

Vice Chairman Cole adjourned the Public Hearing and reconvened the Special Meeting.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion that the Board adopt the following resolution to increase the occupancy tax rate to 5% and to change the Tourism Authority membership to meet the legislation requirements.

Ayes 6

No 0

RESOLUTION

Pursuant to authority granted in Chapter 129 of the 2006 Session Laws enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, at a Special Meeting held following a duly advertised Public Hearing at 5:00 o'clock PM Monday August 28, 2006 in the Panel Room of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, 117 East King Street, Edenton, NC, does hereby adopt the following resolutions:

1. In addition to the room occupancy tax of three percent (3%) previously levied by the board of Commissioners pursuant to authority granted pursuant to Chapter 174 of the 1989 Session Laws, the Chowan Board of Commissioners does hereby levy an additional room occupancy tax of two percent (2%) of the gross receipts derived from the rental of accommodations taxable under Chapter 174 of the 1989 Session Laws.
2. The membership of the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, as created by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners pursuant to authority granted under Chapter 174 of the 1989 Session Laws, is hereby restructured such that at least one-third of the members must be individuals affiliated with businesses that collect the room occupancy tax in Chowan County and at least one-half must be individuals currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Chowan County.
3. The Chowan County Board of Commissioners hereby makes (and/or affirms) the following appointments as Chairman and members of the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority (current 12-member Board):

Cliff Copeland, Member- Promotions (County Manager)
Anne-Marie Knighton- Promotions (Town Manager)
Sam Dixon, Collections (Edenton Town Councilman)
Jimmy Stallings Member (Edenton Town Councilman)
Jimmy Alligood (Chowan County BOC)
Bill Gardner (Chowan County BOC)
Richard Bunch, Member-Promotions (E-C Chamber of Commerce)
Beverly Kirchmier, - Promotions (Edenton Historical Commission)
Linda Eure, Promotions (State Historic Site)
Katrina Barnes-Collections (Accommodations)
Dilip Amin-Promotions/Collections (Accommodations)
TBA –Promotions/Collections (Accommodations)

Adopted today, August 28, 2006 by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

By motion of Commissioner Downum, Diane Parisseau was appointed as an accommodations/collections member of the Tourism Development Authority.
Ayes 6
No 0

County Manager Cliff Copeland introduced Bob Piazza, the new Publisher at The Chowan Herald.
He also announced that bids are out for the library renovation, the new law enforcement center and the Red Banks Farm complex.
He reminded the Board members of the third zoning informational meeting at the Northern Chowan Community Center for Tuesday, August 29.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk